

Judging from the number of circular letters which have been sent to your editor, Abbott must be spending a good deal of the alkaloidal money in circularizing the physicians in California and telling them what a rascal "this Jones"* is and how he must endeavor to curry favor and "bolster up his official position;" that is certainly a "new one" on the editor! And such strong language! "Thoroughly absurd," "Absolutely, unutterably false," "mental vaporings," "unfair inferences of a hypercritical mind," "libelous," "defamatory," "editorial fulminations of this man," etc. He takes a whack at the editor of the *Journal A. M. A.*, merely incidentally, and then offers this description of the unspeakable Jones:

"That Jones stands ready at all times thus vindictively to second any shadow of inspiration that he can draw from this (*Journal A. M. A.*) or any other source, to make assaults upon our interests, or those of anyone else of independent thought and character, and regardless of truth and probity, is evident to all who know him."

You have all seen "this man Jones" wandering about the state for the past six years, organizing county medical societies, etc., and if, indeed, it "*is evident to all who know him*" that he is the sort of blackguard so choicely pictured by dear, good Dr. W. C. Abbott, why the quicker the society can fire him the better it would seem—for Dr. Abbott and his ilk.

Again do we call attention to the up-wave of smallpox pretty generally over the United States and notably in California.

SMALLPOX IN SCHOOLS. Doubtless the focus of many a small, localized epidemic would be found, could it always be traced, in a case of "chicken pox" in some child who has not been quarantined and has been allowed to return to school before the danger period has passed. In some instances it is quite possible to demonstrate this fact and in many more it is clearly indicated. Health boards and health officers should be on the alert and should be particularly suspicious of these light cases, or cases of apparent chicken pox in children who are attending school. It seems almost foolish to emphasize the tremendous importance of rigidly enforcing the compulsory vaccination law, and yet in some sections of the state it is being openly and notoriously violated, to our shame be it said. Just as surely as we are neglectful of this matter, we will have trouble from this disease; and to have an epidemic of smallpox is, in this day and generation, a disgrace to a community, for it points out an ignorance that should not exist. Watch the schools and inspect the school children most carefully; above all, enforce the vaccination law.

* The editor apologizes for the personal tone of this editorial, but he could not help it.

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT.

Medical Society of the State of California.

By GEORGE H. EVANS, M. D., San Francisco.

I shall ask the indulgence of the Society on this occasion for departing from the usual custom pertaining to the Presidential Address, and shall present briefly a subject which, though of vital importance, in these days, when the activities of the profession are divided between Academic Medicine and Commercialism, has been relegated to comparative obscurity. The general practitioner, equally appalled by the intricacies of the former, as he is disgusted by the blatant methods of the latter, has suffered himself to lose sight of the rich heritage which it is his privilege to enjoy as a member of a profession based on the highest altruistic ideals, and has to a large extent overlooked his duties to his community in matters pertaining to Public Health, which he has sworn to safeguard.

The truth of this has forcibly obtruded itself in the light of recent events in San Francisco, in relation to the presence of Plague in that city, and the efforts being made for its eradication.

I think it would be appropriate to state at this time the means by which the public of San Francisco has been stirred in a matter of Public Health, in a way that it never was aroused before; for it illustrates the power of the profession in a community, a power which has lain dormant, and yet which when exercised can certainly make its influence felt. On December 28th, 1907, the Council of this Society met to consider the question of Plague in San Francisco, and the measures being used to control it. Plague had been present since May, and while there had been a temporary decrease in the number of human cases, owing to the fact that the medium of contact between the rat and man was inactive, the incidence of the disease in the rat was constantly increasing month by month. The peculiar danger attendant on these facts was that the proportion of the population that was not in ignorance of them was in an attitude of criminal complacency. The press, the great educational medium of a community, was silent, or abusively vociferant in its denial. A Republican government was spending over \$30,000 a month in fighting a disease that the leading Republican paper of the city said did not exist. The local Health Board, carrying the incubus of a heritage of inefficiency from its predecessor, did not enjoy the confidence of any considerable proportion of the populace. The Marine Hospital authorities were therefore thwarted in every effort looking toward permanent eradication.

These were the conditions that confronted your Council when it met to devise means to educate the public as to the grave dilemma that confronted

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